

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/965,628

Examiner

Daniell L. Negrón

Applicant(s)

LIU ET AL.

Art Unit

2651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 27 February 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 31, 35, 42-44, and 52-56 (to be renumbered 1-10 respectively).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

WAYNE YOUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 31, 35, 42-44, and 52-56 (to be renumbered 1-10 respectively) are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 31, 35, and 42-44, claim 31 teaches a data storage device comprising a plurality of adjacent data tracks, and first and second regions comprising subsets of adjacent data tracks, further comprising a guard band separating the first and second regions, wherein data are written to a first track of the first region and to a second track adjacent the first track, wherein the write transducer is moved in a first radial direction between the first and second tracks such that the data written to the first track is encroached only on one side by the data written to the second track wherein data are further written to a last track of the first region, wherein one or more intermediate tracks are interposed between the second track and the last track, and wherein the write member moves only in the first radial direction in traversing the intermediate tracks such that all data written to each intermediate track is encroached only on one side by data subsequently written to the respective adjacent track, which is neither taught or an obvious variation of the prior art.

Regarding claims 52-56, claim 52 teaches a data storage device comprising a plurality of adjacent data tracks, and first and second regions comprising subsets of adjacent data tracks, further comprising a guard band separating the first region and the second region, wherein data are written to a first track of the first region, and wherein the data are only encroached upon from a single radial side of the first track by subsequent data written to the first region, which is neither taught or an obvious variation of the prior art.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see response, filed February 27, 2006, with respect to rejection of claims 31, 35, and 42-44 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of the claims has been withdrawn.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniell L. Negrón whose telephone number is 571-272-7559. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30am-5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne R. Young can be reached on 571-272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DLN 
March 6, 2006


WAYNE YOUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER